

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicant proposes to amend the reference characters of the second diaphragm body in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings in accordance with the accompanying ANNOTATED SHEETS SHOWING CHANGES.

Enclosed are REPLACEMENT SHEETS in which the above changes have been incorporated.

REMARKS

Enclosed herewith is a Substitute Specification in which the specification as filed has been amended in various places to correct typographical and grammatical errors, and also to add section headings.

In support of the above, enclosed herewith is a copy of the specification as filed marked up with the above changes.

The undersigned attorney asserts that no new matter has been incorporated into the Substitute Specification.

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claim 1 has been cancelled and is re-written as new claim 11 which positively and distinctly recites all of the elements therein. In addition, claims 2-6 and 9 have each been made dependent on new claim 11, while claim 8 has been made dependent on claim 7. Furthermore, claim 10 has been made an independent claim and includes the limitations of new claim 11. Finally, the claims have been amended for clarity.

Applicant believes that the above changes answer the Examiner's objections to the Abstract, specification and claims, and the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 2, rejection of the claims, and respectfully requests withdrawal thereof.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication No. JP08205283A to Sato et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,841,880 to Sakamoto.

The Sato et al. patent publication, which is described in the Background section of the subject application, discloses a thin speaker which is substantially similar to the subject invention with the exception that the diaphragm is suspended from the frame through a first suspension means including edge 25 connected to the base portion of the outer cone 23 of the diaphragm 21, and a second suspension means 29 connected to the voice coil bobbin 28 which is, in turn, connected to the top portion of the inner cone 22 of the diaphragm 21.

The Sakamoto patent discloses a multi-point drive type speaker in which a diaphragm 1c includes an outer cone 1c and an inner cone (actually a dome) 1d, the outer portion of the outer cone being connected to a frame via a first suspension means 4, while the connection point 12 between the outer and inner cones is connected to the frame via a second suspension means (damper) 3 and a damper shaft 7 attached to the frame.

The Examiner now states "it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place a suspension means between the coupling part of a diaphragm and a mechanical structure fixed to the frame. As Sakamoto teaches such arrangement results in size reduction (col 8 lines 50-60) and easy integral design (col 8 line 60 - col 9 line 3), one would have been motivated to position the second flexible suspension means in the way suggested by Sakamoto in Sato et al. loudspeaker to gain advantages in both manufacturing and application usage."

As indicated in MPEP § 2143.01, "V. THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION CANNOT RENDER THE PRIOR ART UNSATISFACTORY FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE - If proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984)." Further, "VI. THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION CANNOT CHANGE THE PRINCIPLE OF OPERATION OF A REFERENCE - If the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims prima facie obvious. *In re Ratti*, 270 F.2d 810, 123 USPQ 349 (CCPA 1959)".

Applicant submits that it is unclear how Sato could be modified using the teachings of Sakamoto. In particular, in order to incorporate the damper 3 of Sakamoto, it appears that an additional frame member would need to be added on the opposite side of the diaphragm 21 from which the frame 36 is located. However, this would thicken the speaker of Sato, as opposed to presenting a "thin speaker". It should be noted that Sato has a central driving means for driving the diaphragm, as in the subject invention, while Sakamoto does not have a central driving means but rather three equally spaced off-center driving means. This would prevent the direct application of the damper 3 being attached to the frame 36 of Sato. As such, extensive modifications of Sato would be necessary to incorporate the damper 3 of Sakamoto, any of which

would probably render Sato unsuitable for its intended purpose (thin speaker), or change the principle of operation of Sato (require removal of the diaphragm cap 26, modification of the bobbin 28 to allow access to the core).

In view of the above, Applicant believes that the subject invention, as claimed, is not rendered obvious by the prior art, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicant believes that this application, containing claims 2-11, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by /Edward W. Goodman/
Edward W. Goodman, Reg. 28,613
Attorney
Tel.: 914-333-9611

MARKED-UP SPECIFICATION

TITLE: LOUDSPEAKER WITH A FIRST AND A SECOND DIAPHRAGM BODY

INVENTOR(S): GUIDO O.M. D'HOOGH

SERIAL NO.: 10/511,973

ATTY. DOCKET NO.: PHBE 020010

LOUDSPEAKER WITH A FIRST AND A SECOND DIAPHRAGM BODY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field Of The Invention

[0001] The invention relates to a loudspeaker provided with a frame, a diaphragm and an electric driving means for moving the diaphragm along an axis of translation with respect to the frame, ~~which said diaphragm runs running~~ round the axis of translation and ~~includes including~~ an outer conical first diaphragm body and an inner conical second diaphragm body which is invertedly oriented with respect to and positioned inside the first diaphragm body, each body having a base portion and a top portion, the top portion of the first diaphragm body and the base portion of the second diaphragm body being interconnected, and ~~which said electric driving means includes including~~ a stationary part connected to the frame and a movable part.

Description Of The Related Art

[0002] Japanese Patent Publication No. JP-A 0 820 52 83 discloses a loudspeaker having a diaphragm including an outside cone part and an inverted inside cone part coupled in a coupling part to the outside cone part. A voice coil bobbin is joined to the inside cone part. The diaphragm is suspended from a frame by means of a flexible suspension ring fixed to the largest circumferential rim of the outside cone part and the frame and a flexible centering

element attached to the frame and a middle portion of the voice coil bobbin. Although due to the applied diaphragm the height of the known loudspeaker may be smaller than the height of generally known loudspeakers provided with single conical diaphragms, this known speaker has still a relatively large height owing to the required relatively long voice coil bobbin.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] It is an object of the invention to improve the

loudspeaker as defined in the preamble in such a way that a very small height is within reach.

[0004] This object is achieved by the loudspeaker according to the invention, which is provided with a frame, a diaphragm and an electric driving means for moving the diaphragm along an axis of translation with respect to the frame, which diaphragm runs round the axis of translation and includes an outer conical first diaphragm body and an inner conical second diaphragm body which is invertedly oriented with respect to and positioned inside the first diaphragm body, each body having a base portion and a top portion, the top portion of the first diaphragm body and the base portion of the second diaphragm body being interconnected, and which electric driving means includes a stationary part connected to the frame and a movable part, wherein the diaphragm is suspended from the frame through a first flexible suspension means extending between the base portion of the first diaphragm body and the frame and through

a second flexible suspension means extending between the top portion of the first diaphragm body and/or the base portion of the second diaphragm body on the one hand and the frame or a mechanical structure fixed to the frame on the other hand and wherein the top
5 portion of the second diaphragm body is attached to the movable part of the driving means. Due to this suspension arrangement, the moving part of the driving means of the loudspeaker can be surprising short, i.e., the axial dimension of the moving part, thus, the dimension considered along the axis of translation, can
10 be small. This means that the required built-in depth is also small. For this reason, the loudspeaker according to the invention is very suitable for applications in which flat devices are desired or required. Such applications can be found, e.g., in the automotive field.

15 [0005] In a practical embodiment, the driving means is positioned opposite to the second diaphragm body and at least partly inside the first diaphragm body. Generally, the stationary part of the driving means, also referred to as electromagnetic actuator, includes a magnetic yoke with a permanent magnet, and the
20 movable part of the driving means includes a driving coil, also referred to as voice coil, for ~~magnetical-magnetic~~ co-operation with the magnetic yoke. Thus, the driving coil is situated in the magnetic field of the magnet.

25 [0006] A preferred embodiment of the loudspeaker according to the invention, is characterized in that the first flexible

suspension means is attached to the first diaphragm body₁ on the one hand₁ and the frame or a mounting element fixed to the frame₁ on the other hand. The first flexible suspension means may be a flexible structure with an undulation or wrinkle. Such a structure
5 may be, for example, a corrugated rubber annular rim.

[0007] In general₁ the second flexible suspension means is a radial bearing means, also referred to as ~~centring~~centering means, particularly ~~centring~~centering ring or spider. This radial bearing means serves to guarantee an accurate alignment of the diaphragm
10 with respect to the frame₁ and may be in the form of a flexible structure of, for example, rubber, synthetic material and/or textile.

[0008] A further preferred embodiment of the loudspeaker according to the invention₁ is characterized in that the second
15 flexible suspension means is attached to the first and/or second diaphragm body₁ on the one hand₁ and the frame or the mechanical structure fixed to the frame₁ on the other hand. In this context₁ it is noted that mechanical structure is a stiff structure which may include a mounting element that may be secured to or include
20 the stationary part of the driving means. Preferably, the mounting element comprises a central support located at the axis of translation of the diaphragm and at least partly positioned inside the diaphragm.

[0009] Although the diaphragm can be constituted by two separate
25 diaphragm bodies, it may be ~~favourable~~favorable, for example₁ for

manufacturing reasons, if the first diaphragm body and the second diaphragm body form an integral diaphragm body. The material of the diaphragm may be conventional pressed paper, injection molded plastics or deep-drawn plastics, such as polycarbonate,
5 polypropylene.

[00101] The invention also relates to a loudspeaker unit provided with an enclosure and a built-in loudspeaker according to the invention.

~~With reference to the Claims, it is to be noted that various characteristic features as defined in the set of Claims may occur in combination.~~

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[00111] The above-mentioned and other aspects of the invention are apparent from and will be elucidated, by way of non-limitative example, with reference to the embodiments described hereinafter.

~~In the, and to the accompanying drawings, in which:~~

[00121] Figure 1 shows a first embodiment of the loudspeaker according to the invention in a diagrammatic cross-section;

[00131] Figure 2 shows a second embodiment of the loudspeaker according to the invention in a diagrammatic cross-section; and

[00141] Figure 3 shows a third embodiment of the loudspeaker according to the invention in a diagrammatic cross-section.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0015] The electrodynamic loudspeaker according to the invention, shown in Figure 1, includes a frame or chassis 2, a diaphragm 4 and an electromagnetic actuator 6 for moving the diaphragm 4 along an axis of translation 8 with respect to the frame 2. The diaphragm 4 comprises two conical bodies, viz. i.e., an outer conical first diaphragm body 4A and an inner conical second diaphragm body 4B ~~which, the first and second diaphragm bodies are being~~ invertedly oriented with respect to each other. The first diaphragm body 4A has a base portion 4Ab and a top portion 4At. The second diaphragm body 4B has a base portion 4Bb and a top portion 4Bt, the top portion 4At and the base portion 4Bb being mutually connected. In this example, the conical first and second diaphragm bodies 4A and 4B form an integral whole, i.e., the diaphragm 4, the top portion 4At and the base portion 4Bt coinciding. The actuator 6, which is also referred to as electric driving means in this document, includes a stationary part 6S connected to the frame 2 and a movable part 6M connected to the diaphragm 4. The stationary part 6S, which is fixed to a mounting plate 2A of the frame 2 by means of, e.g., folding, has a magnetic yoke 6S1 and a permanent magnet 6S2. Due to the space 5 created by the diaphragm 4, a relatively large stationary part 6S can be applied, so that not only compact, expensive neodymium magnets, but also conventional and thus cheap magnets of, e.g., ferrite can be used. The movable part 6M, which is translatable along the axis of translation 8 with

respect to the stationary part 6S, has a driving coil 6M1, also referred to as voice coil, and a tubular coil support 6M2 supported by the coil 6M1. Upon energization, the driving coil 6M1 magnetically co-operates over an air gap 10 with the magnet 6S2.

5 The coil support 6M2 has an end portion 12 which is situated outside the air gap 10. The top portion 4Bt of the second diaphragm body 4B is attached to this end portion 12 by means of, e.g., an adhesive. The diaphragm 4 is suspended from the frame 2 by means of a flexible corrugated annular rim 14 of, e.g., rubber, ~~which this~~
10 ~~annular rim is being~~ also referred to in this document as first flexible suspension means. The annular rim 14 is attached to the base portion 4Ab of the first diaphragm body 4A, e.g., by means of an adhesive, and is further fixed to the frame 2. An undulating ~~centering-centering~~ spider 16, also referred to as second flexible
15 suspension means in this document, is provided in or near the plane defined by the top portion 4At of the first diaphragm body 4A and the base portion 4Bb of the second diaphragm body 4B. The centering spider 16 is attached to the diaphragm 4, at the location of the top portion 4At and the base portion 4Bb, by means of, e.g., an
20 adhesive. The centering spider 16 is further fixed to a central mounting element 18. This mounting element 18 is fixed to the ~~soft~~ magnetic yoke 6S1 and, via this magnetic yoke 6S1, is secured to the frame 2. Thus, the mounting element 18 and the magnetic yoke 6S1 together form a stiff mechanical structure fixed to the frame

2. The frame 2 may be secured to a wall 20 of a loudspeaker box or a built-in opening.

[0016] From Figure 1, it will be clear that the backside of the loudspeaker according to the invention is formed by the second flexible suspension means. The front side of the loudspeaker may be provided with sound apertures 22, which may be covered by a grid 24, a piece of fabric or something like that.

[0017] Reference is now made to ~~the~~ Figures 2 and 3. The features of the embodiments of these Figures which are identical to the corresponding features of the embodiment of Figure 1 are allocated the same reference numerals and will not be further described in detail.

[0018] In the loudspeaker according to the invention shown in ~~figure~~ Figure 2, the frame 2 is provided with a concave mounting plate 2A to ~~with which~~ the stationary part 6S of the actuator 6 is secured. This alternative construction provides a space 30 in which the stationary part 6S of different types can be accommodated, without the necessary to adapt other parts of the loudspeaker. The ~~second flexible suspension means~~ centering spider 16 extends between the top portion 4At (or the base portion 4Bb) and a frame 2B of the frame 2 and is fixed to the portion 4At (or 4Bb) and the frame part 2B. Electric wires 32 are led along the second conical diaphragm body 4B and fixed to electric contact elements 34 which are insulated from and secured to the frame 2. A dust cap 36 is

provided for acoustical reasons and for ~~protection~~ protecting the air gap 10 against unwanted particles.

[0019] The loudspeaker shown in Figure 3 is provided with electric contact lips 34 attached to the central mounting element

5 | 18. The mounting element 18 is mounted in the magnetic yoke 6S1 and, via the stationary part 6S, is secured to the frame 2.

Flexible current conductors 36, which are integrated in the undulating structure of the ~~second suspension means~~ centering spider 16, are soldered to the lips 34 and the driving coil 6M1. These
10 | integrated conductors 36 are rather insensible to damages.

[0020] It is to be noted that the invention is not restricted to the embodiments disclosed. For example, the diaphragm 4 may be made from two separate conical bodies 4A and 4B which are joined together during manufacture in such a way that their portions 4At
15 | and 4Bb are fastened to each other, e.g., by means of a glue.

ABSTRACT: OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~Loudspeaker provided with~~ A loudspeaker includes a frame (2), a diaphragm (4) and an electric driving means arrangement for moving the diaphragm along an axis of translation (8) with respect to the frame. The diaphragm runs round the axis of translation and includes an outer conical first diaphragm body (4A) and an inner conical second diaphragm body (4B) which is invertedly oriented with respect to and positioned inside the first diaphragm body.

~~These~~ The first and second diaphragm bodies each have a base portion and a top portion, the top portion (4At) of the first diaphragm body and the base portion (4Bb) of the second diaphragm body being interconnected. The diaphragm is suspended from the frame through by a first flexible suspension means member (14) extending between the base portion (4Ab) of the first diaphragm body and the frame, and through a second flexible suspension means member (16) extending between the top portion of the first diaphragm body and the frame. The top portion (4Bt) of the second diaphragm body is attached to a movable part (6M) of the driving means arrangement. Due to this suspension arrangement in combination with the specific form of the diaphragm a very small height of the loudspeaker is within reach.

(Figure 1)